

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification by replacing the paragraph on page 6, line 25 through page 7, line 20 with the following corrected paragraph:

The water conditioning agent can be referred to as a detergent builder and/or chelating agent and generally provides cleaning properties and chelating properties. Exemplary detergent builders include sodium sulphate, sodium chloride, starch, sugars, C₁-C₁₀ alkylene glycols such as propylene glycol, and the like. Exemplary chelating agents include phosphates, phosphonates, and ~~amino-acetates~~ amino-carboxylates. Exemplary phosphates include sodium orthophosphate, potassium orthophosphate, sodium pyrophosphate, potassium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate (STPP), and sodium hexametaphosphate. Exemplary phosphonates include 1-hydroxyethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, aminotrimethylene phosphonic acid, diethylenetriaminepenta(methylenephosphonic acid), 1-hydroxyethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid CH₃C(OH)[PO(OH)₂]₂, aminotri(methylenephosphonic acid) N[CH₂PO(OH)₂]₃, aminotri(methylenephosphonate), sodium salt O⁻Na⁺
|
POCH₂N[CH₂PO(ONa)₂]₂,
|
OH
2-hydroxyethyliminobis(methylenephosphonic acid)
HOCH₂CH₂N[CH₂PO(OH)₂]₂, diethylenetriaminepenta(methylenephosphonic acid) (HO)₂POCH₂N[CH₂CH₂N[CH₂PO(OH)₂]₂]₂, diethylenetriaminepenta(methylenephosphonate), sodium salt C₉H_(28-x)N₃Na_xO₁₅P₅ (x=7), hexamethylenediamine(tetramethylenephosphonate), potassium salt C₁₀H_(28-x)N₂K_xO₁₂P₄ (x=6), bis(hexamethylene)triamine(pentamethylenephosphonic acid) (HO₂)POCH₂N[(CH₂)₆N[CH₂PO(OH)₂]₂]₂, and phosphorus acid H₃PO₃. Exemplary ~~amino-acetates~~ amino-carboxylates include aminocarboxylic acids

such as N-hydroxyethyliminodiacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), N-hydroxyethyl-ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), and diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA).